



Instructions for Transition Stage 2

To:

Joined Waitlist in Year:
Years on the Waitlist:

May 25, 2006

Dear Waitlist Member:

Stage 1 of the transition to the new, weighted lottery system is complete, and Transition Stage 2 has now officially begun. **Please note**, if you have not received an earlier version of this letter by email, we either do not have your correct email address or your account configuration is somehow blocking our emails. If you did receive our email, please note that the deadline for submitting Transition Stage 2 Launch Date Preference Forms has been extended to compensate for the delay in sending out these letters. Thanks for your patience. Included in this letter are:

- o details about how Transition Stage 2 will work,
- o a checklist to help you complete Transition Stage 2,
- o review of what happens for those who are not successful,
- o answers to relevant questions, and
- o a Launch Date Preference Form (LDPF) for stage 2.

This letter is intended to supplement our March 23, 2006 letter which can be downloaded from our website at www.nps.gov/grca/river/non_commercial_general_info.htm. Through this site one can also read a summary of the Transition Stage 1 process. The current system for transitioning from the noncommercial waitlist to the new weighted lottery is the result of a multi-year planning process. One can read about the CRMP and Environmental Impact Statement through our website: www.nps.gov/grca/crmp/index.htm.

Transition Stage 2

At this time we are officially beginning Transition Stage 2, the group waitlist stage. In this stage waitlist members have a five week opportunity to band together and submit applications. By banding together, groups of waitlist members will advance up the group waitlist to the place of their combined wait. For example, if Tom has been on the waitlist for five years, Robin for nine years, and Sue for seven years, their combined wait will be 21 years, so they could band together and receive a new place on the group waitlist ahead of all those groups who had waited a combined 20 years or less. Each member of the group must be listed on the group's application, and each waitlist member may be listed on only one application. Each group application will be considered according to the new, combined wait order, favoring those groups with the largest combined wait. The member of each group with the best waitlist number will be the permittee and main applicant.

Through this stage an **additional 600 launch dates** within calendar years 2007 through 2011 will be reserved according to the following distribution pattern: (another approximately 24% of the new noncommercial allocation) for calendar years 2007 through 2011 will be reserved according to the following distribution pattern:

Transition Stage 2 Launch Distribution Pattern: 600 Total Launches

120 Launches per Year, 2007-2011 [*]	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Standard Size Trip (1 to 16 person)	8	8	11	8	8	8	8	8	11	11	8	8
Small Size Trip (1 to 8 person)				3	3	3	3	3				

^{*} Months with Transition Stage 2 release of 8 standard size trips can have no more than 2 trips per week, months with Transition Stage 2 release of 11 trips can have no more than 3 per week, and small size trips cannot exceed 1 trip per week.

Some launch dates during this timeframe have already been claimed by deferments from previous years or through the scheduling process in Transition Stage 1. A list of launch dates that remain available will be added to the "Transition Question and Answers" section of our webpage <http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/noncommercial-transition.htm>.

Waitlist members interested in stage 2 are encouraged to band together with friends from the waitlist in order to increase their chances of obtaining one of the 600 last launch opportunities distributed through the group waitlist. One resource available is a website forum that the Grand Canyon Private Boaters Association created specifically to help waitlist members find each other. The website is www.gcpba.org, click on the "Waitlist Number Clearinghouse". We strongly encourage you to ensure your compatibility with any others with whom you are considering banding together. Waitlist members who choose to band together do so at their own risk. **All members of groups that are awarded launches lose their place on the waitlist and will receive no other compensation even if they do not participate on the trip.** Actual trip size for these groups will be required to stay within the group size limit of 16 people for a standard group launch and 8 people for a small group launch. Group applications may list all launch dates that would be acceptable to the group.

On the **application due date of July 13th, 2006**, applications will be sorted based on combined group member waitlist time. If groups have the same combined total years wait, the order will be set using the original waitlist order of the member with the longest wait. Applications will then be processed according to the new order for the group waitlist. We hope to complete Transition Stage 2 by the end of July. If any stage 2 launch dates remain unclaimed through this process, they will be released through the new lottery system. Letters and emails will be sent shortly thereafter notifying all groups that are successful.

Transition Stage 2 Checklist

The following checklist has been designed to help waitlist members successfully complete and submit applications within Transition Stage 2:

- ☐ Determine all waitlist members who will be part of your group,
- ☐ Decide together what dates your group will request,
- ☐ Decide what group sizes your group will accept (i.e. standard 1-16 person trips and/or small 1-8 person trips),
- ☐ List those dates and all group members on one request form (with attachments if space is needed),
- ☐ Have all group members sign the application (applications can be faxed and signed),
- ☐ Include credit card information for payment of deposit on Launch Date Preference Form.
- ☐ Fax completed Launch Date Preference Form to River Office (928-638-7844) by the July 13th, 2006 deadline.

What Happens if My Group and I are Unsuccessful?

Once Transition Stage 2 is complete, all unsuccessful groups will be dissolved and their respective individual waitlist members will have the Transition Stage 3 option of:

1. **Refund:** They can leave the waitlist and accept a refund of the fees they paid for their current spot on the waitlist,
OR
2. **Extra Chances:** Individuals can leave the waitlist and receive an extra chance in the lottery for each year they had been on the current waitlist. For instance, if you joined the waitlist in 1998 and have been on the list 8 years, you would get 8 extra chances in the lottery and keep those extra chances each year you apply until you are awarded a trip or participate in any other noncommercial or commercial trip through any part of the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River.

Remember, these extra chances will be in addition to the **standard chances** normally given to all applicants in the lottery. So, if you joined the waitlist in 1998 and have not been on the river in the last 4 years, **you would get 5 standard chances in the lottery plus your 8 extra chances in the lottery for a total of 13 chances.**

The first weighted lottery will be held in August 2006 for the remaining calendar year 2007 noncommercial launches. Please visit our website in July for updated information. The following paragraphs are repeated from our March 23rd letter.

With the new lottery system we predict most of our current waitlist members eventually will go on a trip and experience shorter wait times than they would have if the old system had continued. We believe this to be the case even without further management intervention. However, because the new system is a lottery, some who apply might never win. Of specific concern to the NPS are waitlist members who choose the "extra chances" option in stage 3 of the transition and apply regularly through the lottery but continue to not win. **The National Park Service will monitor their progress and**

may apply adaptive management measures to ensure their wait times do not excessively increase beyond what they would have waited under the old waitlist and allocation system. As you try for launches through the above transition stages and apply in the lottery each year, we encourage you to compare how you fare against our predictions of how you would have waited if the waitlist system had continued.

Our rough estimations are included in the personalized copies of this letter sent to waitlist members and predict when each waitlist member would have scheduled trips under the old waitlist and allocation system.

* These numbers are determined by looking at the last five digits of a member's waitlist number for each year and duplicating the progress of the person who had that number in 2004 experienced in 2005. Our estimates of your numbers under the old waitlist system and allocation are being mailed to you. These estimates assume you would not have been one of those who would have fallen off the list for other reasons and that you and all those ahead of you were not waiting for the same small set of acceptable launch dates. For instance, we understand your wait would have been much longer if you and everyone ahead of you on the list were waiting, for example, only for June launch dates; there were only 34 of these released per year to noncommercial boaters.

Questions and Answers

Question: If I join together as a member of a group that applies for a launch date, and my group is successful in obtaining a launch date in stage 2 of the transition, will I be removed from the waitlist?

Answer: Yes, you will be removed from the waitlist. In addition, you will not be allowed to apply in the lottery for any other launch date occurring in the same year as your group's launch date, and your chance in the next lottery will be reset to 1. **All members of groups that are awarded launches lose their place on the waitlist and will receive no other compensation even if they do not participate on the trip.**

Question: If I chose not to combine with anyone else, can I still participate in Transition Stage 2?

Answer: Yes, you may still participate, and you might win. Our predictions, however, suggest that those who do not combine with others may not win through Transition Stage 2. Keep in mind that currently the person at the top of the waitlist joined the list 15 years ago (1991). Knowing this, many groups may aim to join together with enough others so their combined waits put them ahead of this person. It is conceivable that some groups will have combined wait times much higher. Winter dates may be easier to get.

Question: Who can I list on as a potential alternate trip leader on my LDPF?

Answer: In Transition Stage 2 your potential alternate trip leaders are the same people that you group up and apply with as listed on your LDPF. These may only be other waitlist members who agree to apply with you. People who are not on the waitlist may not be listed as Potential Alternate Trip Leaders for Transition Stage 2. Of course, the other rules still apply. Thus, anyone on your list who will remain under age 18 by the date of launch will be ineligible, and those who participate in any other noncommercial or commercial trip through any part of the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the Colorado River earlier within the same year will be ineligible to participate on your trip.

Question: If my group gets a trip, can we still invite whoever we wish to be participants on the trip? Can these people have been listed on other applications? Can these be people who were not on the waitlist?

Answer: Within the maximum group size limits, your group can invite anyone onto your trip who will not have been on any prior commercial or noncommercial trip through the Lees Ferry to Diamond Creek section of the river within the same calendar year. This can include people who were on the waitlist, people who were not on the waitlist, and people who are already planning to participate on other trips in other years.

Question: Are waitlist members under age 18 able to participate in Transition Stage 2?

Answer: Even an under-age person can choose to join together with other waitlist members for the sake of obtaining a group permit, and their total wait time will be counted toward the group's total. However, the underage person cannot be the permittee or qualify as a potential alternate trip leader because they would not meet the permittee requirements.

Additional Questions and Answers about the transition and the weighted lottery can be found on our website at:
<http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/noncommercial-transition.htm>.

US Postal Service Mailing Address:	Address for Other Carriers:	Fax:	(928) 638-7844
River Permits Office	River Permits Office	Phone:	(800) 959-9164
P.O. Box 129	#1 Village Loop Road	-or-	(928) 638-7843
Grand Canyon, AZ 86023-0129	Grand Canyon, AZ 86023	Cancellation Line:	(928) 638-7883

Launch Date Preference Form (LDPF), Transition Stage 2

*** Due Before July 13, 2006 ***

Requested Launch Dates, listed in order of preference:

We understand we can attach additional sheets and choices as desired and list blocks or ranges of dates. Only the dates we list will be checked, and we will be bypassed for all other dates. We can list any launch dates or ranges of dates from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011. Please format as month/day/year (e.g. 6/21/07) and **circle** the 16, the 8, or both to indicate whether the request is for a standard size group (up to 16 people at one time), a small group (up to 8 people at one time), or either size group. Check our website <http://www.nps.gov/grca/river/pdf/unavailable.pdf> to see what dates have already been booked and are unavailable from (deferments and Transition Stage 1 bookings). **Please write legibly and only list launch dates your group wishes to accept.**

size	size	size	size
#1: _____ [16 8]	# 9: _____ [16 8]	#17: _____ [16 8]	#25: _____ [16 8]
#2: _____ [16 8]	#10: _____ [16 8]	#18: _____ [16 8]	#26: _____ [16 8]
#3: _____ [16 8]	#11: _____ [16 8]	#19: _____ [16 8]	#27: _____ [16 8]
#4: _____ [16 8]	#12: _____ [16 8]	#20: _____ [16 8]	#28: _____ [16 8]
#5: _____ [16 8]	#13: _____ [16 8]	#21: _____ [16 8]	#29: _____ [16 8]
#6: _____ [16 8]	#14: _____ [16 8]	#22: _____ [16 8]	#30: _____ [16 8]
#7: _____ [16 8]	#15: _____ [16 8]	#23: _____ [16 8]	#31: _____ [16 8]
#8: _____ [16 8]	#16: _____ [16 8]	#24: _____ [16 8]	#32: _____ [16 8]

Group Members From Waitlist:

Important: All people listed below must be current members of the waitlist and **must not be listed on any other transition stage 2 application.** By agreeing to be listed below, waitlist members are choosing to band together. As a group they will be advanced up the temporary group waitlist to the place of their combined wait. The waitlist member listed below who has the best place on the waitlist will be considered the main applicant and trip leader; that person can later pass the trip to one of the others listed below. We strongly encourage you to ensure your compatibility with all others with whom you are considering banding together. Waitlist members who choose to band together do so at their own risk. **All members of groups that are awarded launches lose their place on the waitlist and will receive no other compensation even if they do not participate on the trip.** Applications for individual waitlist members are acceptable. **Information listed below must be accurate, complete, and legible.**

Important: Trips may not be deferred. The waitlist members listed below who will be at least 18 years old by the launch date are the potential alternate trip leaders (PATLs) for this trip. Listing them here is a way of ensuring that if something comes up and trip leader cannot go on this trip, someone else (one of the waitlist members listed here) can take over the trip and allow it to continue as originally planned. Within Transition Stage 2, **only other waitlist members can be PATLs; this is your last chance to list anyone as a PATL for your trip.** If you cannot go and nobody is listed here or none of those listed below agree to take over the trip, the trip will be cancelled. PATLs must be at least 18 years old before the launch and have not been on the river during the same year as the launch. Only complete entries are accepted. Please **list the waitlist member with the best waitlist number first, then enter the rest of the names in preferred order of succession.**

Waitlist Members May be
Listed Only on 1 Application.

Last Name (From Drivers License)	First Name (From Drivers License)	Date of Birth mm / dd / yyyy	2005 Waitlist Number e.g. 05#07801	Years on List	Member Signature I have read and agree with this completed application and understand I will lose my place on the list if this group is awarded a launch. (FAX signatures are okay.)

☐ Check this box if more than 6 waitlist members are banding together, and attach an extra sheet of paper listing the above required information for those members.

Authorization for Payment of \$400 Deposit: (Payment is processed and nonrefundable only if a launch is awarded.)

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Authorizing Signature: _____

Form must reach the River Permits Office by 7/13/06. Please fax to 928-668-7844 or send by certified mail to May 2006 Transition Stage 2 Launch Page 4 of 4